

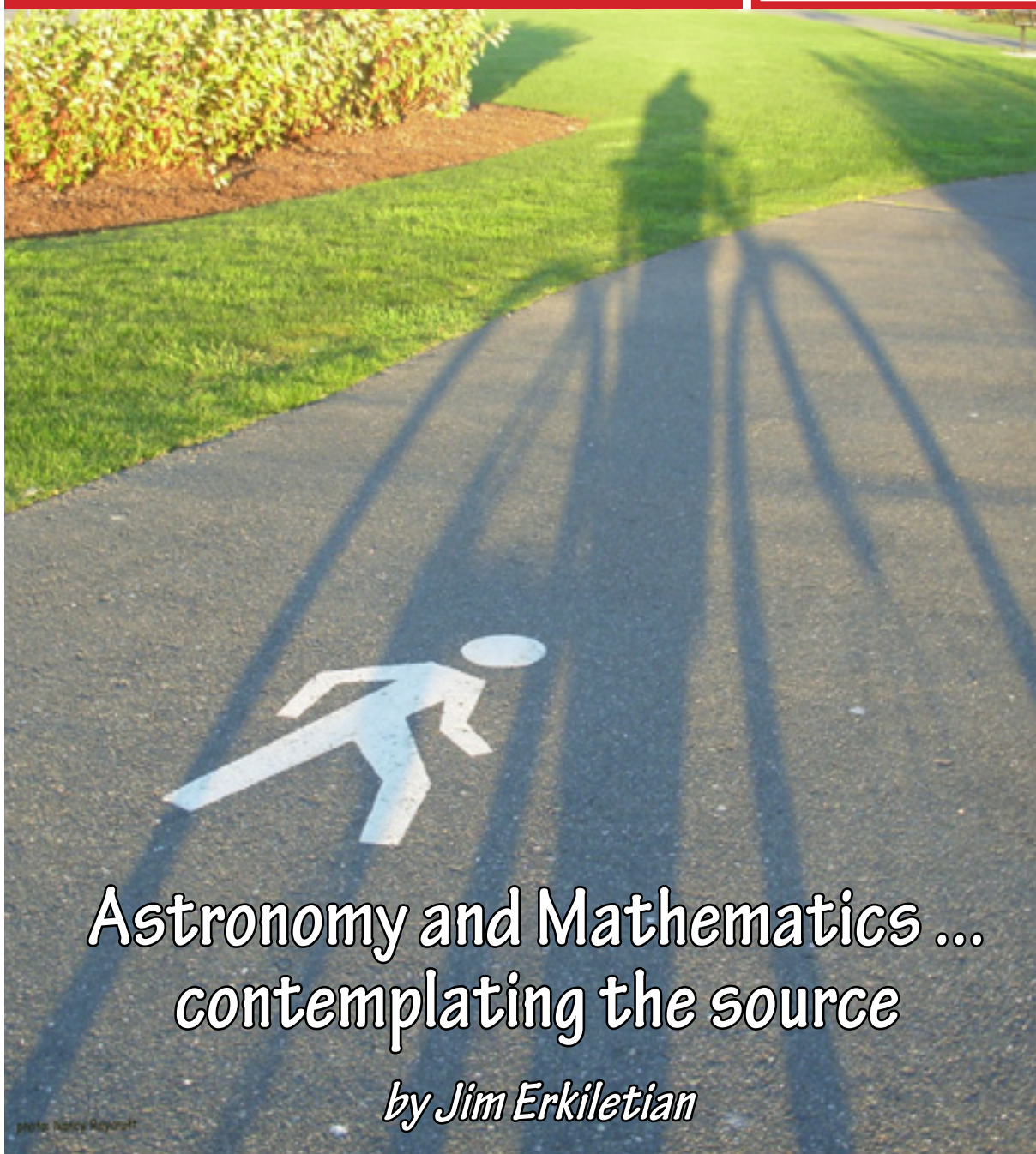
Victoria Street Newz May 2013

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*"All the news that fits,
we print"*

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I didn't know whether to laugh or cry at the letter to a local paper from someone who thought First Nations had no astronomy or mathematics. I've spent years trying to understand both, and have barely scratched the surface.

continued on page 3 ...

About Street Newz

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just another guest editorial rant

pacificfreepress.com

Zombie Drones

by C. L. Cook

A coalition of peace groups in the United States declared April be dedicated to a new, people's campaign against drones, (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, specifically).

Dubbed 'April Days of Action,' the demonstrators, which include: the Granny Peace Brigade, Grandmothers Against the War, and Raging Grannies among others, say; "Too many civilians have been killed by these drones, and that includes women and children." They also express concern that burgeoning domestic drone fleets being deployed by law enforcement are turning the US into a surveilled society.

Barack Obama disagrees with the venerable grey ladies, saying the drone attacks are; "exceptionally surgical and precise," insisting they "do not put... innocent men, women and children in danger." An article titled, 'US claims of 'no civilian deaths' are untrue,' the Bureau of Investigative Journalism (BIJ) details its findings, taken from on-the-ground interviews conducted in Pakistan between September 2010 and June 2011 examined the CIA's so-called targeted killings, they document ten cases of drone missile strikes producing civilian collateral damage, where at least 45 civilians perished. (The Bureau's findings as of July 2011 graphically rendered here):

Ten Deadly Strikes	
Date	Summary
September 8 2010	Four children killed alongside six militants
October 18 2010	Ten-year-old killed by shrapnel when next-door house bombed
November 26 2010	Engineering student killed when car destroyed
December 6 2010	Two shopkeepers reported killed
December 17 2010	Two civilians killed along with 32 alleged militants
March 11 2011	Five civilians killed as they attempt to rescue militant victims of previous strike
March 17 2011	At least 19 civilians, including local police, killed in attack on tribal meeting
April 22 2011	Twelve-year-old boy killed along with five suspected militants
May 6 2011	Six civilians killed when restaurant accidentally hit in strike
June 15 2011	Four civilian members of a family killed when their car destroyed

Clearly, the Obama administration's claims of "zero civilian casualties caused by drones" is ridiculous, but it's the position the president's people stuck to, even in the face of the BIJ report. In June of 2011, John Brennan, then Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counter-terrorism, and now executive director of the CIA, made the astonishing pronouncement there had been not a single "collateral" death caused by CIA drone assassins. For the record, Brennan says;

"In fact I can say that the types of operations...the US has been involved in, in the counter-terrorism realm, that nearly for the past year there hasn't been a single collateral death because of the exceptional proficiency, precision of the capabilities that we've been able to develop."

It was precision decidedly undeveloped in 2010, when the New America Foundation, a US-based policy think tank, released their report on civilian casualties caused by drones in Pakistan's restive Tribal Areas. The Foundation report, 'The Year of the Drone,' researched by Peter Bergen and Katherine Tiedemann says 1 in 3 people killed by drones since 2004 is an innocent, either in too-near proximity to someone targeted, the victim of errant missiles, or tragically misidentified. They may too be someone grudging into the crosshairs by a long-tongued neighbour. Bergen and Tiedemann looked at 114 drone attacks, where more than 1200 people were killed, of which they say "between 549 and 849 were reliably reported to be militant fighters." That would leave between 651 and 351 non-militant fighters. Or, put another way, it means; for every sortie flown, between 3 and 6 civilians died collaterally.

Those 114 cases studied are of course just a drop in the bucket of total drone attacks. Known drone-targeted nations joining Pakistan are: Yemen, Afghanistan, and Somalia. (Drones are too a feature of life for Palestinians, the constant whine of their engines above being a daily irritant and tacit threat in both Gaza and the West Bank). Writing for ProPublica, Cora Currier outlines the anatomy of Obama's Kill List, and how the drone program finds its targets. Currier says;

"[R]eviews now happen at regular interagency meetings at the National Counterterrorism Center. Recommendations are sent to a panel of National Security Council officials. Final revisions go through White House counterterror adviser John Brennan to the president."

From here, word is sent to one of the many bases, both within and without the US, where specially trained pilots will, from air conditioned cyber-stations, comfortably carry out the mission.

But is the focus on drones and drone warfare missing the mark?

Hayes Brown follows the recent release of a Gallop Poll study of American attitudes regarding the use of drones. His ThinkProgress article, 'Polls on Drones Ignore Larger Issue of Targeted Killing' reminds; though drones aren't the sole weapon used to carry out the necessitated kills, they have uniquely captured the popular imagination. When asked by Gallop how the government should and should not use drones, 65% were OK with their use to kill "suspected terrorists living in foreign countries," with 41% agreeing they should be used to kill "suspected American terrorists living in foreign countries." The numbers change dramatically though when drone deployment at home is proposed. Only 25% believed Uncle Sam should terminally target with drones suspected terrorists within the United States; while a meagre 13% think it right for the president to order the remote assassination of suspected homegrown terrorists inside the country.

Brown observes; "Most of the focus in the debate about the Obama administration's policies has been on the use of new technology in the form of drones, rather than on the killing program itself."

What this poll also reveals is, ("...with 95% confidence that the margin of sampling error is ± 4 percentage points.") more than one in ten American adults think it alright for the president to order executed one of their fellow citizens without the onerous entanglements of warrants, and arrests, and a judge and jury trial. One in four would do away with those quaint old judicial demands where foreigners are suspected.

Grannies raging and otherwise aside, I would ask America; "Are you really prepared to junk eight hundred years of jurisprudence, making the power of life and death a matter of a Tuesday morning hob-nobbing of bureaucrats in the bowels of the National Counterterrorism Center?"

Zombies are everywhere you look these days; on teevee, video games, starring in bestselling books, and at the movies. According to TV.Com, the zombie series, *Walking Dead* is America's third most favoured program. The show is described thus: "The series follows a police officer, Rick Grimes, who wakes up from a coma to find the world ravaged with zombies. Looking for his family, he and a group of survivors attempt to battle against the zombies in order to stay alive."

Luckily for Officer Grimes, society as he had known it is gone. There is no zombie president fingering the kill switch, no spotty contractor "manning" the drone console between trips to the fridge. (I understand, a special medal is being struck to honour their sacrifice). The drones don't fly over the *Walking Dead*. Drones need people, because like the zombie they're both mindless and soulless. They need soulful men like the president, and clever ones like the executive-director of the CIA to get off the ground. And they need the goodwill of the people who take the polls and pay the tolls to stay aloft. The people must back the program, whether those birds are at home, or abroad.

BUT, it's more than a Year of the Drone, or even years of them we're seeing unfolding, it's a dawning New Age of Drones. And, those birds are already home and roosted. And, it's gonna take a lot of Grannies' rage, and many more days of action than April provides to stop their mindless, soulless propagation.

Some Sources:

<http://www.thebureauinvestigates.com/2011/07/18/washingtons-untrue-claims-no-civilian-deaths-in-pakistan-drone-strikes/>

<http://thinkprogress.org/security/2013/03/25/1769121/drones-polls-targeted-killing/>

<http://www.commondreams.org/headline/2010/03/04-1>

<http://droneswatch.org/2013/01/23/everything-we-know-so-far-about-drone-strikes/>

Chris Cook is a long-time CFUV radio broadcaster, host of Gorilla Radio and serves as managing editor at PacificFreePress.com.

From Janine, Street Newz founder and co-ordinator:

A big thanks to Chris Cook for composing this month's guest editorial rant, to Nancy Raycroft for providing additional photos, and to all my friends and family who've supported me through the past few weeks while I tended to a family emergency. I had intended to publish the third in a series documenting and explaining why I believe a plant-based diet is a most significant and comprehensive solution to human and planetary health, and will lead the dominant species to a more peaceful existence. Instead of focussing on research and words on a page about the real torture and murder that accompanies the processing of "meat," and advocating instead for a compassionate approach that respects all life, the universe offered me an opportunity to express my love through care for my elder parents during a difficult time. Opportunities for compassion always surround us, whether it's family or friends or our animal cousins, there's always a chance to choose selfless benevolence over personal procurement. Much gratitude to all those who responded in kind during these difficult times.

Native Science ... *continued from cover*

The Pawnee used to sing hymns to the constellations, especially the Pleiades (Seven Sisters) which symbolized to them a band of warriors riding across the sky. The Incas and Aztecs used that constellation, which they called the Colchas or storehouse, to tell them when to begin harvesting their crops.

Archaeologists know hundreds of stone circles across North America oriented precisely toward sunrise at the summer solstice. Every teepee was oriented to the sun, and the view through the smokehole allowed stellar observations that kept the dwellers precisely aware of the time of year.

Near St. Louis, at Cahokia Illinois, there are mounds built on the Mississippi flood plain that are precisely oriented to the North Star. Below the largest mound was a circle of pillars that allowed the astronomer of 1000 years ago to tell, by the shadows it cast, the exact day, week and month of the year, as well as the time of day.

The ancient writings of the Mayan people of Mexico consisted of two kinds. There were quipu, a collection of different colored strings on a stick, that allowed them to keep extensive records. Mostly they were used to record transactions, but could also indicate historical records of communities. They also had huge libraries of paper books, called Codex, only four of which survived the fires of the Spanish inquisition. Those four, in German museums, tell of hundreds of plants and animals and of their respective uses in medicine, foods and spiritual ceremonies.

We'll never know what the thousands of Mayan books contained. The four that were rescued have provided hundreds of PhD research papers, and will provide at least hundreds more as they are slowly deciphered.

The number system we use has ten symbols, one through nine and a zero. It descended from a Persian system that used 60 symbols. The zero was invented in India about 500 BC, to help deal with the complication of a base-60 system. The Arabs adapted it to their 10-symbol system about 200 BC, and it has come down to us from them.

The Mayans also invented the zero about 1200 years ago and incorporated it into the number system they had inherited from the ancient Olmec civilization. It uses only two symbols, the dot (one) and the line (five). With the fist (zero), it became a base-five number system, but essentially, with the zero, a binary system.

As the stone carvings on their observatories show, especially the Caracol at Chichen Itza which I've had the opportunity to study, their system was used to calculate eclipses to the hour over a time span of at least 180,000 years, at a time our EuroAsian astronomers didn't even know Venus had phases. (Like the moon, Venus is visible as reflected sunlight. How the Mayans knew this without telescopes is unknown to science).

The Mayan calendar, unlike ours which only uses the sun for marking the year, uses the sun, the stars, and Venus, which has a 260-day cycle of phases. Their 13-day week cycles exactly into the Venus cycle, and both cycle into the sun yearly cycle every 52 years.

Our system needs to add an extra day every four years, a leap year, to catch up with the sun. Their system doesn't, because a 13-day week has exactly 13 day's worth of leap days every 52 years.

When our base-ten number system was inventing exponential notation to deal with very large and very small numbers, the Mayan astronomers had been using a similar system incorporated into their math for at least 500 years. When EuroAmericans started using base-two (binary) systems to design the computer chip, the Mayans had been using it in their everyday lives for over 900 years.

Ben Whorff, and anthropologists who lived among the peoples of the American Southwest, suggested the Hopi have a better understanding of Einstein's theory of relativity than most of us because their language consists almost entirely of verbs. His contention has never been refuted.

Jim Erkiletian holds university degrees in Economics, Education, English and Anthropology. Cover photo from Nancy Raycroft.



Stephen Harper Speaks in Fork Tongue: Elijah Harper's Thoughts on the Apology

by Dr. Lynn Gehl

When Prime Minister Stephen Harper offered the residential school apology in the Canadian parliament on June 11, 2008 he stated the reason for doing so was that the lack of one was a barrier to the healing and wellness of survivors. I, though, thought his rhetoric was nothing but a pile of nonsense in that it was void of any real practical value.

As an Algonquin Anishinaabe-kwe who has spent a lot time looking at the history of the Algonquin land claims and self-government process at the doctoral level, I know full well that the contemporary process offers, for the most part nothing. The amount of land and resources Indigenous Nations gain in the contemporary land claims and self-government process is so miniscule that viable self-government is not possible. Let's face it, 1.3% of our land base and three hundred million dollars will not cut it. Clearly the process is not a negotiation between equal nations leading to genuine self-government for Indigenous Nations. Rather, it is a perpetuation of a colonial and patriarchal relationship.

In the Anishinaabe tradition knowledge is located in both oratory and the associated practices and rituals that accompany and follow. Oratory and practices/rituals inform and re-enforce one another. As such, Stephen Harper's words were meaningless to me because at the level of practice the contemporary land claims and self-government process continues to set huge limitations on Indigenous self-government.

Thinking through my Anishinaabeg worldview as I do I found Indigenous leader and cultural icon Elijah Harper's more recent discussion of Stephen Harper's oral apology of the residential school history and the accompanying practices and rituals interesting and affirming. Elijah, himself a survivor of the residential school system, was a keynote speaker at the "From Indian Residential Schools to Truth and Reconciliation Conference" in Peterborough, Ontario that took place on May 5th and 6th, 2012. This community driven conference was organized by the Kawartha Truth and Reconciliation Support Group which consisted of Indigenous peoples and descendants of settler allies and it was chaired by Alice Olsen Williams. The Truth and Reconciliation (TRC) as most know emerged from the apology that Stephen Harper offered.

During his quietly spoken keynote address Elijah Harper relied on his knowledge of parliamentary procedures explaining that the practices/rituals accompanying Stephen Harper's apology did not match the oratory. Elijah explained that during the reading of the apology parliament was in session in that the Speaker of the House of Commons was in his rightful location – in the Speaker's chair, and the House of Commons' Mace was in its rightful location – on the Clerk's table. Elijah explained that these two practices/rituals symbolize that parliament is in official proceedings. These practices/rituals are always in place when foreign dignitaries or heads of state speak in the House of Commons.

While these two practices/rituals were adhered to during Harper's oral reading of the apology, Elijah further explained that when the Indigenous leaders spoke the Speaker of the House left his chair, returning to the floor, and the House of Commons Mace was moved to a non-official location, indicating that parliament was no longer in formal session. It is clear to me that in explaining this lack of harmonization between oratory and practices/rituals Elijah was asking listeners to appreciate that Indigenous peoples were not respected and recognized as the Nations that they are.

Elijah, myself, and many others agree on the importance of land and resources in Indigenous self-determination. While talking with him after his keynote he pointed out that during 2010 the Canadian national domestic product was a whopping \$600 billion. It was clear to me that Elijah was arguing Indigenous Nations are

entitled to our rightful share of the wealth of our resources of our land. Interestingly, during Alice Olsen Williams' workshop session, where she was show-casing a community quilting project, she began with offering the same position stating, "Give us our land and resources". It was clear to me that Alice was arguing that this is where genuine reconciliation will be played out. Jan Longboat agreed with the importance of land and resources. This became apparent when Jan stood up and thanked Alice for her wise words.

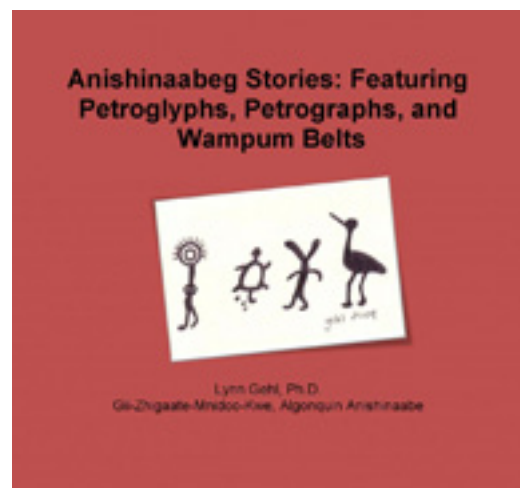
After Elijah finished his keynote address I also had a conversation with the attending Truth and Reconciliation Commissioner, Marie Wilson, a non-Indigenous person. I blatantly informed the commissioner that as an Algonquin Anishinaabe-kwe I find the entire TRC process, meaning the apology and the events that are presently unfolding in Canada, to be patronizing. Of course she defended her position. Regardless, I did not budge; after all, I carry first-hand knowledge about the current land claims and self-government process where Indigenous Nations continue to be denied our land and resources – again the two resources where viable self-government is manifested.

Appreciating that I was not going to budge on my position about feeling patronized, the commissioner added that she is doing what the people want and feel is needed. My response to her, though, was "Yes, I understand that people need to feel that their grief has been heard before they can move on, that is if they can move on." Regardless, I explained "After these people are heard, many may turn their attention to the practices [again where knowledge is] inherent in the contemporary land claims and self-government process, as I and others have, and they may come to realize they were duped by the oral apology". What I meant by this is that they may come to realize, as I have in my thinking and knowing process, that the practices on the ground fail to meet the oratory of the apology. "Once they find themselves in this place, many may return to a place of feeling manipulated, denied, and lied to. And this new place may be a place of greater disenfranchised grief" I added.

In sum, oratory and practices/rituals did not harmonize and inform one another as they should have during Stephen Harper's apology and in this way fork tongue discourse is alive and well in the Harper government, rather than being a colonial strategy of the past.

All this said, some people may wonder, "If I know that the contemporary land claims and self-government process is rooted in colonial practice and the oral apology lacks real substance, why did I bother to attend the TRC conference?" My response is layered. First, I attended the conference because I wanted the opportunity to listen to Elijah Harper's thoughts on the apology and the TRC process. I wanted to learn if he felt the same way that I do. Second, I attended the conference because I realize that some residential school survivors do need a venue to voice what Elijah himself suggested during his keynote. That being "We need to forgive them". When I listened to Elijah's words I interpreted them to mean, not that we forgive them, move past our grief and move on, but rather that there is the need to forgive what the settlers and colonizers have done, and for that matter continue to do, in that they are indeed pitiful human beings versus beings that bear the intelligence, voice, and practices that members of the Tree or Deer Nations hold.

Dr. Lynn Gehl is an Algonquin Anishinaabe-kwe from the Ottawa River Valley. She has a section 15 Charter challenge regarding the continued sex discrimination in The Indian Act, she is an outspoken critic of the Ontario Algonquin land claims and self-government process, and she recently published a book titled Anishinaabeg Stories: Featuring Petroglyphs, Petrographs, and Wampum Belts. In her spare time she carves nickel-sized turtles. You can reach her at lynngehl@gmail.com and see more of her work at www.lynngehl.com.



Keeping an Eye on the Site C Dam and the Sacred Headwaters

by Don Startin

We still don't know the time and place of the final environmental assessment hearing on the Site C Dam. We'll try and give you the heads up in plenty of time to register.

Up north we hear that Imperial Metals, the company launching the Red Chris Mine, is angling for a deal with Hydro that will allow Imperial to build the 287 kilovolt line from Bob Quinn Lake to Iskut, taking in the mine on the way.

When the line is complete it will be sold to BC Hydro for not more than \$52M. Any overrun will be paid for by Imperial. The line will be paid for by Imperial, and presumably the folks in Iskut by a "special tariff." We can only surmise that this tariff will be low, some kind of industrial rate, and that in fact the line will be heavily subsidized by Hydro's other customers who are you and me.

We should be alert to the fact that at this time Hydro is carrying a huge debt, much of which has been deferred,

in order to subsidize the provincial treasury and pay handsome bonuses to Hydro's senior management. This could well turn out to be a classic example of crony capitalism and corporate welfare. However in fairness to all parties we must wait and see the numbers, and what The BC Utilities Commission has to say, because they have to approve the deal.

It is worth noting that the Arctos Anthracite Project, and the Groundhog Coalfield, are both within striking distance of this proposed power line, and that because lots of jobs are involved, no matter what party comes out on top in the next provincial election there will be pressure to further abuse the Sacred Headwaters.

I would like to thank Ann and Stan Tomandle of Friends of the Stikine for alerting me to this story. These two folks are part of that thin red line of heros who always seem to be around, when needed, to stand up for the environment and the underdog.

Don Startin is an activist and gardener, an ex-military man who currently lives a life of simplicity with his wife.

Food ... Not Bombs!

Food Not Bombs is 100% volunteer run.

The food we use in Victoria is donated from local organic farms. We cook plant based meals high in nutrients.

We serve for free as an act of mutual aid, not charity, serving to whomever wishes to eat with us!

Every day tons of good food is wasted, while people of many class backgrounds struggle to have access to healthy nutritious food. Meanwhile governments waste billions on military, prisons, and surveillance rather than on human needs.

Free the Food!

Serving info: Food Not Bombs Victoria serves a healthy home cooked vegan meal every Sunday at the corner of Pandora and Vancouver under the large sequoia tree, around 3:30 pm. We also serve at some free activist gatherings, marches or other radical spaces and in support of various social struggles.

Volunteers are always needed, and always welcome. We generally begin cooking around 11 am, and cook until the serving. We also need volunteers to clean up after the serving. There is also always other work to be done as well throughout the weeks.

Get In Touch: If you want to volunteer or want us to serve at an event you are organizing, contact us at vicfnb@lists.resist.ca or for information on where the next kitchen is you can call the FnB message line 250-383-5144 and enter box # 1940. A recorded message will give the address of the upcoming kitchen.

Join our facebook group! <http://www.facebook.com/groups/46722105836>



Ken's Observations: Talking Behind Your Back

by Ken Bath (1951-2013)

A street buddy of mine approached me recently and informed me that another street buddy of mine was talking behind my back.

Doesn't everybody? Its hard not to. Who isn't guilty of that one? I for one am. It seems to be part of human nature. We are hard wired to gossip. But that doesn't mean it's right, nor make it right.

I am trying very hard to break myself of this habit. Although I slip from time to time I try to look at myself before I tend to run someone down, or talk behind their back. If I could walk on water, like they do, I'd talk behind everyone's back.

Talking behind another's back is usually associated with criticism, bad mouthing, trash talk and slurs. In short all negative. People rarely tend to say something nice behind your back.

People have been talking behind my back since the day I was born. I may even be talked about long after I'm dead. What they are saying about me is irrelevant. I

can't hear them. Nor can I control what comes out of their mouths. I've long quit worrying about what people say behind my back, which is why I am trying to break the same habit.

We all have strengths and weaknesses, we all have qualities, some good, some bad. We all have faults. I am painfully aware of most of mine, I probably have faults that I'm not even self aware of yet

When I hear that friends are talking behind my back, I don't take it personally. While someone's talking behind my back, someone else is doing the very same thing to them.

It's easy to snipe, and gripe, criticize, and pass judgments. I have one rule of thumb that I try to follow. If I won't say it to your face, it's better left unsaid.

So next time you're talking behind someone's back, remember that someone else is doing the same to you.

Ken sold the Street Newz for many years, and passed away in January after struggling with cancer. He left a legacy of writings, for which we're grateful.

Fan Mail!

Just a fan letter. Good rant on the contribution of eating vegan can make to the world's health in latest *Street Newz*.

[My partner] and I discussed it, and are moved to try not just one day, but two or three meatless days per week. We have been working on this direction for several years, and finally have one day that we both look forward to, and can say with delight, 'we are having three wheat berry pilaf' tonight for dinner, or spicy bean.

That seems to be the hardest for us, the imagining not just dishes to cook, but the whole notion of what is a good meal. Recently I started asking vegetarian friends, what was a good meal you cooked last week? Last one was a stuffed red peppers, and aha, that I can say, and evoke good smells and anticipation.

Food and meals are very important parts of our social and emotional lives, always have been, and we are trying to move the meals also to align with our spiritual/political lives.

photo from nancy raycroft: eat better. feel better. millet, kumat, buckwheat for breaky on left. sprouted brown/red and wild rice with quinoa for dinner on right.



Racism in Print: Free Speech, or Bad Journalism?

by Kevin Henry

The misinterpretations I personally found in a racist letter written by Don Olson, the one he sent in to be published in Nanaimo Daily News, on March 27th, 2013, is partially solved here: the difference between two nations is never easy to determine, for we are all connected to the dirt, but life means stating a fact that the red skinned peoples feel energy in a more simplistic manner; one closely related to a spiritual being that created life, and the Indigenous peoples choose, with compassion, to work with the lands, live near the waters of sacredness, and abide by Natures Law. Living by way of respect, even giving respect to those without a human voice; spun from my westernized education, however, I have learned, over the last twenty-eight years, western society wishes to dominate its environment for profit.

I suppose, and I can only speculate, that this is the male genius kicking in to be superior over something that claims to have no purpose in human existence but profit. Hidden within, is the depths of silent racism, westernized schooling as educated me to the point that I forever grasp their concepts to spread hate through the beauty of the written word, yet call this hatred "free-speech."

I am unsure why hatred has come down to colour-colour is poise, many paint with colour, and many see colour on the screens in front of them. I know I speak of this often, but still, why must I be taught to hate the wind, to hate the land, to hate my culture, to hate my people....why? I stand by such wisdom that "kanata" feels racist, and clearly, still reaching into the concepts of hating people of colour, yet call it proper expression of the mind; though racism is, and always shall be, wrongful to hate the beauty found in colour.

Kevin Henry filmed the journey of Hereditary Chief Beau Dick and his family, supporters, and allies from Cowichan Territory, through many ancestral territories, to the breaking of an Indian copper at the BC Legislature. Stay tuned for a fundraising film-screening mini-tour, to support the partial scholarship he's been granted for the Gulf Island Film and Television School. <https://www.facebook.com/events/334286123343959>



Books for Reading: Strange Pilgrims

by Andrew Tate

Hi everyone. Sorry for missing last month's issue. More minor computer problems again. Old computer.

Here's another book from my own collection - another anthology of strange, surreal stories. It is entitled Strange Pilgrims by Gabriel García Márquez (Penguin Books, 1993, 188 pgs., translated from Spanish by Edith Grossman). Márquez was born in Aracataca, Columbia in 1928 and best known for his novel One Hundred Years of Solitude. He won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1982.

This book consists of twelve stories written between 1976 and 1982. Here we have a grieving father coming to Rome for an audience with the Pope, carrying a box the shape and size of a cello case; an aging streetwalker waits for death in a Barcelona apartment with a dog she has trained to weep at her grave; a panic-stricken husband takes his wife to a Parisian hospital for the treatment of a cut finger never to see her again; a woman in Vienna who sells her dreams.

My favorite story is entitled *I Only Came To Use The Phone*, in which a 27 year-old woman's rented car breaks down in the Monegros desert while driving back to Barcelona. She is then picked up by the driver of a ramshackle bus. She told the driver that all she needed was a telephone to let her husband know that she would not be home before seven. All the passengers were older women wearing identical blankets and clothes. They were also acting lethargic and drugged. As the bus pulled up to the courtyard of an enormous, gloomy building that looked like an old convent surrounded by a forest of colossal trees, she realized that she was taken to a women's mental institute. There she was admitted indefinitely against her will by the doctor and was constantly harassed by a gigantic matron, called Herculina, who was attracted to the young woman. Her husband, a magician, visited his wife several times; however eventually he left her, remarried and returned to his own country. The young woman was never heard from or seen again. All she wanted to do was phone her husband to tell her she would be late coming home, and suddenly found her self committed to a women's mental institution against her will, losing her husband and self dignity.

I enjoyed the stories in this book. I've always liked reading Latin American literature where ordinary people are suddenly thrust into frightening, surreal, bizarre, nightmarish situations against their will; dreams and reality intertwine; and the ordinary becomes the extraordinary. Rather like the TV show *The Twilight Zone*. Also there is a simplicity and poetry in these stories, perhaps because they were translated from Spanish. The narrative is simple and expressive with no flowery words or redundancy. In these stories, Márquez blends terror and nostalgia, surreal comedy and the poetry of the commonplace, magic images, and reality grave and comic in a unique light.

Strange Pilgrims is available in the Nellie McClung branch of the GVPL under GAR in Fiction.

Until next time, *Andrew Tate*

Too Big to Fail, Too Big to Prosecute

by Gerry Masuda

Time is long overdue to break up banks which are too big to fail and too big to prosecute. They are just TOO BIG.

Action needs to be taken to legislate the breaking up of the largest banks and reorganizing the banking industry back to providing financial services to the public (rather than speculation to increase the bank's profits). Precedence has been set by the legislative break up of Standard Oil in 1911.

These dominating banks have become so strong that they have filled all top executive positions in the US financial regulatory hierarchy and compromised the legislative branch by compromising congresspersons and senators. The public is defenceless. This situation must be corrected.

In a country where the 1%ers rule in their self-interests at the expense of We the 99%ers, We the People must be made aware that, in the final analysis, We hold the ultimate political power. In democracies where each individual has a vote, the logical form of government should be People's governments which legislate in the interests of We the 99%ers. It is now time for Us to take action while We can..

How do We unite We the 99%ers behind one banner to address the fundamental problem to rebalance wealth distribution between the 1%ers and 99%ers?

Does anyone have solutions?

Gerry lives in Duncan and welcomes your comments at gerry.masuda@gmail.com.



May Day

by Kym Hothead

Please go to libcom.org and check out their in depth article - *A History of Mayday* -

“An article looking at the ancient pagan roots of Mayday, through the Haymarket martyrs to International Workers Day and the UK anti-capitalists in the late 1990s.”

My Mayday education started with women who identified as lesbian feminists and feminist pagans in the late 80s and 90s. Early on in my clean and sober years I would meet Ravida and Matriba Din, teenage sisters who taught me a lot about how folks from poverty and folks of color had a lot of common ground in this class and race based colonial system. A system that divides and rules us by race, class, gender, productivity, and so on. It keeps us divided and fighting like dogs for scraps at the table of the rich.

I would learn about Unions and their roots, this took years to understand due in part to the attack on unions. The U.S. government attacked May Day and even changed the month in which Labor Day was celebrated due to an ever-growing socialist movement while anarchists like Emma Goldman were alive.

It took 20 years for me to understand the connections and I am learning still about the International Workers Day like:

“The celebration of Mayday as a working class holiday evolved from the struggle for the eight-hour day in the 1880s. In 1884, the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions passed a resolution stating that eight hours would constitute a legal day's work from and after May 1, 1886. The resolution called for a general strike to achieve the goal. With workers being forced to work ten, twelve, and fourteen hours a day, rank-and-file support for the eight-hour movement grew rapidly, despite the indifference and hostility of many union leaders. Revolutionaries believed that the struggle for an eight-hour day would evolve into a struggle to overthrow capital.”

Of all the May Day celebrations I've been to over the years I feel impassioned over this next one here in Lkwungen Territory. Wasn't it last year or the year before that VICPD led a sting they coined “Cinco de Mayo”: Five days of May? It's a test question. They stalked street level drug dealers and they also “stung” us at May Day Protest /Wild Salmon March. Under covers asked me repetitively “you got some cannabis”? I am fairly sure it was visiting under covers from down south who tagged View Towers with pro American fascist spray paint images, poorly done at that. Police were all over us and used electronic equipment for sure!

We are Canadian citizens and we were exercising our legal right to protest, why would Jamie Graham send undercover agents to our rally and try and find drugs to buy? Is that not a sick waste of time and money for the taxpayers? We have 75% of Victoria police budget spent on illicit drug and cannabis activity, that is just wrong! We have violent crimes to deal with; we can decriminalize and get back to living Life.

Why did my mom have to worry so much about us children? Sadly it was the police state, this sick judicial system that needs a fundamental change.

This year the CTEHV (Committee To End Homelessness Victoria) is hosting the start of the May Day Rally on Pandora Green in front of Our Place Society where we have been meeting for some years now. I was honored with an invitation to attend the Tuesday afternoon art group at Our Place! On request we have started banners for creative May Day Celebrations and, with the help of residents, will hang them to dry after we work on them! Thanks resident artists!

One resident wants to do a beautiful painting of Our Place on a banner; he picked a beautiful green banner for his work. We also came up with an idea and I have started work on an old map of Canada and will mark in red dots Idle No More locations, in blue dots Occupy areas in green dots we will mark defenders of Earth and their front line battles, in orange dots anti poverty movements and so on. If you are interested, please come to Tuesday Our Place Art Group 12:30 upstairs in chapel.

I was also invited some time ago to attend the Downtown Story Group and I finally made it. I was received with a warm welcome with an introduction from Andrea that made me blush. Why? The film I miraculously finished is why.

I am proud of each and every person who came forward for this film. It takes courage and you have to come and see for yourself all the courage and strength in this film Taking The Fall and Rising. I'm featuring old and new shorts on thawVictoria channel on youtube. Our Place will has a copy of the movie! Folks are able to go and ask Gail to please play on the big TV screen downstairs by request, as long as it does not interfere with previous plans.

In ending, I see many people beginning to Idle No More more often. Let's all come together demanding permanent homes for all and a guaranteed livable income the likes of which Martin Luther King spoke of before he was shot! All people can live in peace and be productive members of society. We need a fundamental shift and we can do this together. Martin Luther King saw the other side of the mountain and many more have seen and join hearts moving forward. Integration was what Martin Luther King called for. We must integrate in all aspects. Yes we need our own space, protection, culture, roots and all that. In general Unity is achieved when we step out of our comfort zones.

We all deserve and are responsible to help bring about peace and protection of Life.

All of us are worthy of being treated with respect. All.

kym hothead is a visitor on Lkwungen Territory, originally from Red River Cree territory.



Quakers Endorse BC's Poverty Reduction Plan

by Marjory Reitsma-Street

The not-for-profit BC Poverty Coalition has been active for some years distributing information on the extent of poverty in B.C., and its harsh impact on families and communities. "Over half a million British Columbians live below the poverty line and 87,000 of those are children." (citing A poverty reduction plan for health people and health communities, bcpovertyreduction.ca, downloaded April 9, 2013.)

The key focus of its work has been advocating for the creation of a provincial poverty reduction policy in B.C., inspired by those legislated in other provinces. Many organizations have passed resolutions at board meetings, in professional and community associations, and through unions and church councils, to support the six point Poverty Reduction Plan: (1) to adopt the \$10 per quality childcare; (2) to expand public access to health, vision, community care for seniors, and dental care; (3) ensure there is a living wage for those in the employment market and increase welfare and disability rates that are tied to inflation; (4) to build significant numbers of social housing units; (5) to adequately fund more training and other educational opportunities; and (6) to focus specific policies responsive to the barriers facing marginalized groups, including those living with disabilities, single parents, and senior women.

The current focus of intense work is to ask all candidates in the upcoming election: how would you legislate and implement an effective poverty policy if you were elected. Every reader, citizen, and voter is asked to consider which candidate in their riding would be the one most willing and able to legislate, and finance, a solid poverty reduction policy. See bcpovertyreduction.ca for print and electronic assistance for the 2013 election.

Marjory Reitsma-Street is a member of the Vancouver Island Month Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). This Meeting endorsed the Poverty Reduction Plan in a minute approved April 7, 2013.

Hunger Strike for Justice!

On March 22nd, the International Day for the Elimination of Racism, Homeless Dave began a hunger strike. Homeless Dave is formerly a homeless DTES (Downtown Eastside - Vancouver) resident. Dave wants social housing rather than condos on the Sequel 138 site, housing and a wellness centre at the old cop shop at 312 Main, and the Downtown Eastside declared a Social Justice Zone with City instituted policies to make it happen.

News in Inclusion

Last week we had our largest ever Speak Up Dinner Forum. Over 70 people came to ask questions of staff from the Ministry of Social Development.

People asked about whether the shelter portion would be raised above \$375 per month. People raised concerns about whether they would be cut off from assistance if they don't file their taxes. People raised concerns about the three months it took to receive a job supplement. People spoke of the struggle to access nutritional food or vitamins. The crowd expressed exasperation over continued struggles with poverty and housing instability. More than anything people expressed a need for more decent housing options for those on income assistance.

Thank you to the MSD staff who took the time and joined the conversation.

Hannah Rabinovitch, Social Inclusion Coordinator



greater victoria
coalition to end
homelessness
hope has found a home

Occupy Again !

Were you involved in protest camping during the Occupy (Peoples' Assembly) movement?

Did you camp out to make a statement about what's wrong with your world?

Now's your chance to make that statement again!

You're invited to participate in a sociology study about the meanings people were communicating by camping out during the occupy movement.

This study is based on interviews with people who were involved in the Occupy protest camping, in 2011 or 2012. The interview takes about 30 to 60 minutes, at a location of your choice, somewhere that's convenient and comfortable for you. If you think you'd like to participate, please contact me, Rob Duncan, either by e-mail at rmdduncan1@hotmail.com, or by telephone at 250-857-6091.

If you weren't involved in the Occupy protest camping but know someone who was, please pass this message along to them.



No Fracking Way!

by Serina Zapf

On March 30, 2013, community activists on a critical mass bicycle ride consecutively blockaded three Chevron gas stations. This blockade was in response to the Unis'tot'en call for solidarity actions targeting Chevron.

The action was one of dozens taking place across Canada and the globe to raise awareness about Chevron's plans to build the Pacific Trail Pipeline across unceded Wet'suwet'en territory. Chevron's plans will allow for expanded production of fracked gas in Northeastern B.C. to be piped to a Liquid Natural Gas terminal in Kitimat.

Activists in Victoria blocked traffic and rode bicycles to three Chevron gas stations, distributed flyers, and wrapped Chevron stations in crime scene tape. "Chevron is the latest corporation to sign up to commit colonial climate crimes in British Columbia," said Antoine. Antoine continued, "Fracking natural gas requires the indiscriminate use of fresh water and releases massive quantities of methane, a powerful driver of climate change. These processes are destroying lands that are unceded by indigenous people."

Blockade participant, Jordy Nault said, "we blockaded Chevron today to disrupt business as usual and send a warning that the Pacific Trail Pipelines will meet resistance. Chevron is responsible for the deaths of land, water and communities, and we refuse to be silent and complicit in the destruction of life."

Freda Huson from the Unis'tot'en Clan of the Wet'suwet'en said: "If Chevron tries to install unsanctioned pipelines through unceded lands, they will meet complete and utter defeat." She continued, "We will resist all of their plans.

We act to protect our lands, and the increasingly unstable climate, to do what is best for future generations."

For more information visit the Unis'tot'en website: <http://unistotencamp.com>. Photo thanks to Pete Rockwell - to see more photos visit <http://www.treelinephoto.ca> and click on the "frack chevron" link.



Is your diet Acid/Alkaline Balanced?

by Vesanto Melina

In [a previous] issue, we reviewed research related to acid-base balance and diet. To summarize: meats, dairy products, and grains are acid-forming, meaning that after these foods are digested and metabolized, they influence body fluids to be acidic. This is due to the particular mix of amino acids and minerals such as sulphur and phosphate. In contrast, vegetables and fruits influence toward the slightly alkaline direction that our body needs due to the somewhat different mix of amino acid plus potassium, magnesium, and other minerals. (The sour, acidic tastes of many fruits is due to compounds that are broken down during digestion and don't play a role here.)

Our lungs and kidneys play key roles in keeping our arterial blood within the narrow pH range (7.35-7.45) that is required for life and good health. This is done mainly through exhaled CO₂ and by variable amounts of certain compounds excreted in our urine. If we consume excessive amounts of acid-forming foods, the body must tap its alkaline reserves in order to maintain the proper pH. North American diets are so heavily weighted in the acid-forming direction that there is an impact on our kidneys, and subsequently on our muscles and bones. Consequences of our acid-forming diets can include kidney damage, kidney stones, the muscle wasting, and possibly the dissolution of bone.

Kidneys

After any food is eaten, digested and absorbed, compounds that are acidic or alkaline end up in our kidneys. The kidney can excrete or retain various substances in the urine to bring our pH back within the ideal range and in the process draw on calcium (an alkali) from bones and the amino acid glutamine from muscle to help neutralize an acid load. Calcium salts are lost in the urine and in some cases when the urine is acidic and concentrated, these settle out in the form of kidney stones.

Bones

High intakes of protein from meat, cheese, other animal proteins, and grains increase urinary calcium. One key to preventing so much calcium from flowing out is to consume a less acidic diet. Of course we definitely need adequate protein intakes to maintain our bones; very low protein diets are not the answer. The alkaline effects of a diet centered on vegetables, fruits, and legumes appear to protect against hip fractures. Many bone building vitamins and minerals in these plant foods help too.

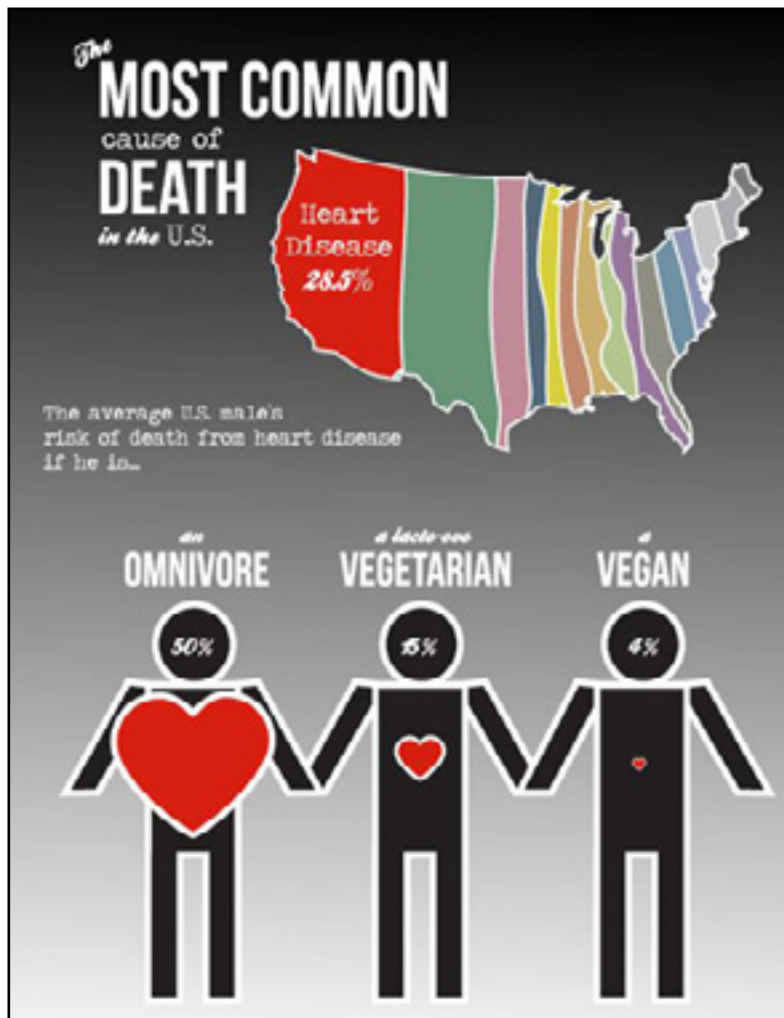
Muscles

Glutamine is an amino acid in muscle protein that can help neutralize an acidic environment. The body can counteract acidosis by breaking down muscle, thereby liberating glutamine plus other amino acids that can be converted to glutamine. Amino acids are then excreted, causing an overall loss of muscle protein. A shift in diet towards fruits and veggies may minimize or slow these losses.

Aging

As we age, mild acidosis can worsen, possibly due to a decline in kidney function or to dietary changes. This may explain some loss of muscle and bone that can occur.

Vesanto Melina is a Registered Dietician. Read part one of this article, and more, at www.nutrispeak.com, or watch for her writings in Common Ground magazine.



Taking the Fall, and Rising

by Alison Acker

You're probably in this movie.

Kym "Hothead" Hines has been shooting "Taking the Fall and Rising" since the tents were pulled down on Pandora Green three years ago. The documentary focusses on what life is really like for the street community and it isn't pretty.

So don't expect cute characters, happy to thank the city for finding them a bed. Instead you'll see yourselves as you really are, along with cops, lawyers, social workers, drunks, addicts, "nimbies," the Rev. Al, even our MP Murray Rankin.

Why do the poor have to live like refugees? What can be done to create homes? Why can't there be a sanctioned tent city run by the people who live in it?

Why do other people disparage those on the street?

It's an episodic movie that flashes from interviews to a chilling documentation of harassment. There are the city workers rousting sleepers out of their tents on Pandora Green at 6 am. Then there's a take-down filmed in the Market on Yates, showing four heavy men on top of a poor guy who had allegedly stolen a leg of chicken. There's a car chase with the cops shadowing a woman suspected of being a dealer. Everywhere there are cops, in marked or unmarked cars, on bikes or even out of uniform.

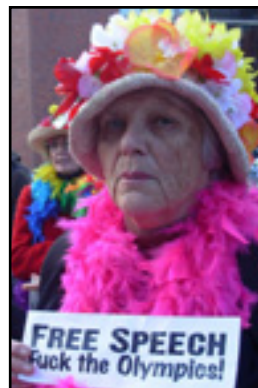
It's a documentary that should be seen by every citizen of Victoria or anywhere else, because poverty is a world-wide problem. And it will be shown.

Its sponsors, the Victoria Committee to End Homelessness (CTEHV), began showings with the law students at UVic in April, then at Our Place, Aids Vancouver Island, with dates being booked for the Eric Martin Theatre, Rock Bay, Emmanu-el Synagogue, Fairfield Community Centre, Vancouver VANDU and even at the ArtsWell Film Festival in Wells, BC.

Free copies of the DVD will go out to some 50 groups in May or June, with a generic poster. If a group hosts a showing, it may be possible for Kym - or even a member if the "cast" - to come, too, though donations to cover travel costs are much appreciated. This doc was made on a \$1,000 film budget, with another \$1,000 raised for distribution costs.

Questions and applications to:
alisonacker@shaw.ca

Alison Acker is a member of the grassroots Committee to End Homelessness, and also a Raging Granny advocating for justice in all its forms.



Demanding a Coroner's Report

by Noah Ross

Thirty people in the homeless community of Victoria died during the summer and fall of 2012. This is three times the regular number of deaths in this community in Victoria for the time period. This tragic situation is made worse by the fact that no steps have been taken to make sure this doesn't happen again. In January the University of Victoria Poverty Law Club (PLC) reported these deaths to the Regional Coroner's office and requested that the office of the chief coroner in British Columbia conduct an official Inquest.

A Coroner's Inquest will help to raise awareness about the reasons these people died and shed light on the complex interrelations of circumstances that put people's lives at risk, including lack of proper health care and low-income housing. A Coroner's Inquest has a public profile that requires institutions to provide information and to respond publicly to concerns and any recommendations that are made. At the same time, an Inquest is important for the dignity of those who died and the broader homeless community in Victoria.

The regional coroner's office has indicated that they won't respond to a request for a coroner's inquest until at least the end of March, so we can continue to put the pressure on. This story has been become national news, having been featured in the Globe and Mail and on the CBC Radio show As It Happens. We need to build on this pressure so that we can ensure that these deaths will not go unnoticed.

With this in mind, we ask you or your organization to submit a letter to the regional coroner's office. The regional coroner is Matthew Brown and his email is matthew.g.brown@gov.bc.ca and his phone number is 250 356-9133.

We have attached a template request form that outlines why we think an inquest is important. Please take a minute to sign on to this letter, alter it, or submit a letter of your own - the more voices that are raised, the stronger impact we can have. If you have any questions or would like to speak to me directly please send an email or call my cell at 778-350-7349. If you send the letter, please also send a copy to the UVic Poverty Law Club at povertylawclub@gmail.com.

Mr. Matt Brown, Regional Coroner
5th Floor, 910 Government Street
Victoria, BC V8X 3W4

Dear Mr. Matt Brown,

We are writing to you as a concerned community organization. We request a full Coroner's Inquest into the 30 deaths among Victoria's homeless community that occurred during the summer and fall months of 2012. This amount of deaths is more than three times the regular amount during the same period in Victoria. We view this spike as unacceptable.

We believe that poverty is the root cause of these deaths, a root cause that is magnified by a range of government policies. An important factor is the failure of all levels of government to provide adequate health care and social supports to the homeless community in Victoria while pursuing exclusionary policing strategies. We need to determine which institutions failed to provide services and figure out how to fill these gaps. We believe that improvements in the housing and health care that is available to homeless people in Victoria could prevent deaths from occurring in the future.

A Coroner's Inquest will generate recommendations to prevent similar deaths from occurring in the future while also providing dignity for those who have passed away. At the same time an Inquest will provide an opportunity for public engagement, and raise awareness about the need to develop community-based responses to this pressing issue.

That three times as many people as usual died among the homeless community in Victoria from summer to fall of 2012 can not go unrecognized or unaddressed. An Inquest is an important step in making sure that these deaths are reckoned with.

Kind Regards

Some Food Resources

9-10 CLUB standrewscathedral.com 250-884-4459
740 View St. V8W 1J8, Family friendly breakfast Mon-Fri, 8-10 am.

ANAWIM COMPANION SOCIETY www.anawimhouse.com 250-382-0283
973 Caledonia Street V8T 1E7, 19+, laundry, showers, meals, clothing, limited housing spaces. Arrive by 11 am for lunch M-F; 2 pm for dinner Weds & Fris.

BURNSIDE GORGE COMMUNITY CENTRE www.burnsidegorge.ca 250.388.5251
471 Cecelia Rd. V8T 4T4, Dinner Thurs 5 pm

BEACON BUS
Blanshard Community Centre, 910 Kings Rd. Family friendly Friday dinner @ 5 pm

BLANSHARD COMMUNITY CENTRE www.blanshardcc.com 250-388-7696
901 Kings Rd. V8T 1W5, Family friendly Thursday lunch at noon (\$3 adult, \$1 child)

CARTS www.cartsvictoria.ca Starts @ Queens Manor, to Centennial Square, ends at Salvation Army. Sundays 4:30-6:30, snacks & hot choc.

FIRST MET CHURCH firstmetvictoria.com (250) 388.5188
932 Balmoral, V8T 1A8, Friday before cheque issue dinner @ 5:00 (not in July, Aug, Dec)

FOOD NOT BOMBS A collectively run food kitchen 250-383-5144, ext 1940
Harris Green (Pandora & Vancouver) Family friendly vegetarian Sundays, 3:30ish

JAMES BAY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CENTRE jamesbaycentre.ca 250-389-1470
140 Oswego St, V8V 2B1 Seniors dinners Tues & Thurs @ 5 pm, Family Friendly Community Dinners Weds, approx. every other month. Purchase Tics in advance.

MIRACLE KITCHEN at Living Edge 950 Kings Rd Dinner @ 4:30 Sundays

MUSTARD SEED STREET CHURCH www.mustardseed.ca 250-953-1575 625 Queens Ave V8T 1L9, Lunch Sat & Sun 11 am; Dinner Fri & Sat @ 7 pm, Family friendly dinner 3rd Sunday, registration required call 250-360-1148.

OUR PLACE ourplacesociety.com 250-388-7112
919 Pandora Ave V8V 3P4. 19+ drop in centre w/computer room, special projects. Open Mon to Fri 7 AM - 5 PM. Breakfast 7-8 AM; Lunch 11:30-12:30; Dinner 4-5 PM

PEERS www.peers.bc.ca 250-388-5325
1-744 Fairview Rd Esquimalt. Past/present sex workers only. Lunch 12-1 pm M-F

RAINBOW KITCHEN www.rainbowkitchen.ca 250-384-2069
500 Admirals Rd. Esquimalt, V9A 2N4. Lunch M-F @12-1 pm. Families welcome

ROCK BAY LANDING www.coolaid.org 250-383-1951 535 Ellice St.
Tics @ 3:30, Dinner @ 4:00 pm Saturdays & Sundays, 50 meals for non-residents

SALVATION ARMY www.salvationarmycfs.com/index.php/general/34-saarc
525 Johnson St. V8W 1M2 250-384-3396 Family friendly, \$2 Breakfast 8-9 am M-F; \$3 Lunch 11:45-12:30 M-F, Sun; \$4 Dinner 5-5:45 M-F.

SAANICH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLACE www.saanichneighbourhoodplace.com 250-360-1148
3100 Tillicum Rd. V9A 6T2 4th Weds, family friendly dinner @ 6 pm, registration req'd

SAINT PETER'S CHURCH 3939 St. Peter Road. 11 am lunch third Saturday each mth.

SANCTUARY YOUTH CENTRE www.sanctuaryyouth.org 250-385-625-5767
Humboldt V8W 3G6, 19 and under dinner Fridays @ 4 pm

SANDY MERRIMAN HOUSE www.coolaid.org (250) 480-1408
809 Burdett Ave, V8W1B3, Women only lunch Mon-Sun 11:30 am until food runs out

TAILGATE GRILL
Wharf St. Whale Wall, Family friendly burgers 2nd & 4th Sundays @ 3 pm

VICTORIA YOUTH EMPOWERMENT SOCIETY www.vyes.ca (250) 383-3514
533 Yates St, Youth (13-19) only, M-Th, Dinner 5 pm; Snack 8 pm

Family Friendly Breakfast Club

First Saturday: St. Andrew's Presbyterian Kirk Hall, 680 Courtney St, 8:00-9:00 am

Second Saturday: St. Andrew's Presbyterian Kirk Hall, 680 Courtney St, 8:15-9:15 am

Third Saturday: Glad Tidings Pentecostal Church Hall, 1800 Quadra St. 8:30-9:30 am

Fourth Saturday: Central Baptist Church, 833 Pandora, 8:30-9:30 am

Fifth Saturday: BC Ferry Workers' Union at St. Andrew's Kirk Hall, 8:15 - 9:15 am

Sidney Soup Social Community Lunch

Family friendly, 11:30-1:00 pm; free or by donation, everyone welcome

Tuesday: St. Elizabeth's Church - 10030 Third St.
Wednesday: St. Andrew's Church - 9691 Fourth St.
Thursday: St. Elizabeth's Church - 10030 Third St.
Saturday: Peace Lutheran - 2295 Weiler Ave.

Salt Spring Community Brunch

268 Fulford-Ganges Rd. Brunch Tuesdays 9:30-noon

Meals in Sooke

Mon & Wed: Breakfast 7:30-9 am,
Sooke Baptist Church - 7110 West Coast Rd.

Fridays: Lunch 11:30-1 pm,
Holy Trinity Anglican Church - 1952 Murray Rd.

Mon, Tues, Thurs: Low-cost lunch for seniors 11 am
Sooke Seniors (55+) Drop-in Centre 6689 Sooke Rd.

This list is maintained at victoriahomelessness.ca

Housing Resources

No Cost for Service, Time Limited Stay

Salvation Army (Emerg men only) 525 Johnson Street, 250-384-3396
Rock Bay Landing (formerly Street Link) 535 Ellice St. Phone: 250-383-1951
Sandy Merriman House (for women) 809 Burdett Avenue, 250-480-1408
Sobering & Assessment Ctr (24 hr) 1125 Pembroke (@ Cook) 250-213-4444
Out of the Rain (Youth 15-25) 250-812-0490 winter only, various locations
Kiwani's Youth Shelter (13-18) 2117 Vancouver St., 250-386-8282
Hill House - Women with children 250-479-3963
Sooke Transition House 250-642-2591 Women with or without children
Vic. Women's Transition House 250-385-6611 Women with or w/out kids
Cridge Centre for the Family 1190 Kings Rd 250-384-8058 Women & kids
Kiwani's House for single women 16-29 w/ one child 250-382-1004
Margaret Laurence House 250-995-0058 Women & kids escaping abuse

A full listing of shelter spaces is available at victoriahomelessness.ca

Low Cost Monthly Rentals

Ritz Hotel - 710 Fort Street, 250-381-1868
Fairfield Hotel - 710 Cormorant St., 250-386-1621
York Hotel - 711 Johnson Street, 250-385-2544
Douglas Hotel - 1450 Douglas Street, 250-383-4157
Ocean Island Backpackers - 791 Pandora Avenue 250-385-1788
Turtle Refuge Backpackers - 1608 Quadra Street 250-386-4471
Vic. Human Exchange Soc. 361- 2762, 1-800-691-9366, www.humanx.org
Extreme Outreach - men only, \$350 + dep. No alcohol or drugs. 250-708-2064

Subsidized and/or Supported Housing Services

BC Housing (subsidized - low income families, 55+, or w/disabilities)
301- 3440 Douglas Street, 250-475-7550 www.bchousing.org
Burnside Gorge Community Assoc. 250-388-5251 members.shaw.ca/bgca
Capital. Region Housing (subsidized, low income families, 55+, disabilities)
623 Fisgard, 250-388-6422 www.crd.bc.ca/housing
Capital Mental Health Association Satellite Housing Program 250-389-1211
Coordinated Housing Registry (subsidized & supported housing)
www.coolaid.org 826 Cormorant St. 250-356-2548
M'Akola Housing Society 250-384-1423
Pacifica Housing Advisory Assoc. (families) 827 Fisgard 250-385-2131
Pacifica Housing Serv/Downtown Outreach Serv (connects low-income folk w/ housing in private sector) 826 Cormorant 250-356-2555
Pandora Youth Apts 753 Pandora, For 15-19 yrs, Andrea - 250-380-2663
St. Vincent de Paul Soc. 250-382-2767
Victoria Senior Citizen Housing Society - Register w/BC Housing Mgmt Commission: 301-3440 Douglas 250.475.7550

Helpful Housing Hints

1. Add your name to the BC Housing list and the Coordinated Housing Registry.
2. Get the addresses & phone numbers of subsidized or supported housing units from the Cool Aid Society, the BGCA, M'Akola, etc. If you find one you like, make friends, impress them, ask them to pull your name off the list. They can let you in, but you have to be listed with BC Housing first.

For more housing information visit victoriahomelessness.ca
Extreme Weather Shelter status updates at www.vewp.net

Some places to call for help

Action Committee of People with Disabilites - 948 View St., 250-383-4105
Adult Addiction Comm. Treatment Serv: 2nd floor, 1250 Quadra, 250-727-3544
AIDS Van Island: 713 Johnson St, 3rd Flr, 250-384-2366 ext 2268; AVI Nx 250-896-2849
BC Utilities Commission (if gas or electricity's shut off where kids live) - 1-800-663-1385
Coalition Against Poverty - vcapvictoria.wordpress.com
Committee to End Homelessness - committeetoendhomelessnessvictoria.wordpress.com, 250 480 4854 or alisonacker@shaw.ca
Cool-Aid Medical Clinic: 250-385-1466 Cool-Aid Phone Service (\$5/mth plus HST): 250-383-1977
Credit Counselling - 250-477-9998 HomelessNation.org - online community
Foundation of Support-Recovery for Men: foundationhousevictoria.blogspot.ca, 250-480-1342
Grief/Bereavement Counsel: Lorraine Jasmin, R.P.C., 1198 Goldstream, sliding scale
Lalli Care Clinic - Drug Info, Med. Review, Alt Health - 250-386-5100, lallicareclinic.ca
Lifering Secular Recovery - (250) 382-1004, www.liferingcanada.org or www.lifering.org (usa)
Men's Trauma Centre: 250-381-6367, #203-1420 Quadra St. www.menstrauma.ca
Outreach Services Methadone Clinic: 2004 Fernwood Rd., 250-480-1232
Prostitute Empowerment & Education (PEERS): 744 Fairview Rd., 250-388-5325
Problem Gambling Help Line - 1-888-795-6111
Research, Education, Evaluation, & Support Prog. (REES): 250-595-8619
Salvation Army Addictions & Rehab Centre: 525 Johnson, 250-384-3396
Seniors' Advocacy Group - 388-7696 for advice; 250-360-1068 to be an advocate
Society of Living Intravenous Drugusers (SOLID): 7-9 pm Weds, 1947 Cook
Harm Reduction - harmreductionvictoria.ca, harmlessvictoria.blogspot.com (students)
Together Against Poverty Society (TAPS): #302-895 Fort St 361-3521
Victoria Native Friendship Centre: 384-3211 -- 231 Regina Ave V8Z 1J6
Victoria Sobering & Assessment Centre: 1125 Pembroke, 250-213-4444
Vancouver Island Addiction Recovery Soc.: 536 Cecelia, 250-480-1342
Youth-to-Youth Support Line - 24 hours. 250-386-TALK, www.youthlines.ca
Vancouver Island Crisis Line: 1-888-494-3888 (all ages); www.youthspace.ca



The amazing and awesome Street Newz Vendor Team



Bernie
Beacon Hill



Craig
London Drugs



Danny
Fort/Foul Bay



Doug
Fort St.



Evelyn
Cook St. Village



For information about
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contact **John**
at 250-886-5863
or visit his "office"
near Fort on Douglas St.



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Douglas near Fort



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Vendors pay 50
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	Feb	Mar	Apr
Street Newz Revenue			
Paper Sales (from previous mth)	273.00	158.00	252.00
Donations	640.00	290.00	160.00
Subscriptions	0.00	55.00	0.00
Gifts (incl in-kind)	210.00	210.00	40.00
Hope in Shadows Calendar Sales	538.00	0.00	0.00
Co-ordinator's Contribution	834.25	204.22	78.66
Bread & Roses Donation to SNZ	800.00	800.00	800.00
Total Street Newz Revenue	3495.25	1717.22	1330.66
Street Newz Expenses			
Salaries	800.00	800.00	800.00
Paper & Printing Costs	210.38	252.00	252.00
Postage	81.64	60.22	57.16
Office expenses/website	65.00	65.00	65.00
Vendor/Writer Meetings/Support	80.25	45.00	16.50
Ttl Street Newz Expenses	1237.25	1222.22	1190.66
Street Newz	2258.00	495.00	140.00
Bread & Roses Revenue			
Grant \$ from Vancity (THANKS!)	0.00	0.00	10000.00
Total Bread & Roses Revenue	0.00	0.00	10000.00
Bread & Roses Expenses			
Street Newz Donation	800.00	800.00	800.00
Ttl Bread & Roses Expenses	800.00	800.00	800.00
Bread & Roses	-800.00	-800.00	9200.00
Consolidated Ttl (SNZ + B&R)	1458.00	-305.00	9340.00
Bread & Roses Bank Balance	2020.77	1615.92	10770.92

Subscriptions and Support !!

Subscription Rates (12 issues/year):

Electronic	Regular	Low Income	USA	Int'l
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Coast Salish Territories, V8V 3P6

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Thanks for your support!